In addition the following cases of import have been noticed at Mumbai Port which were adjudicated after imposing fines and penalties and re-export of the goods were allowed.

Name of the Importer	Goods	Redemption Fine	Personal Penality	Remark
M/s. Suny Ent., 15, Prithiviraj Market New Delhi	Refrigeration Gases	Rs. 70.000/-	Rs. 14,000/-	Re-export allowed
M/s. Seba International, 51, Lajpat Nagar II, New Delhi.	Refrigeration Gases	Rs. 1.00.000/-	Rs. 30,000/-	Re-export allowed

(c) All the field fonnations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are ever vigilant and alert to thwart any attempts of smuggling of ozone eating gas;

Pending hydro power proposals of Kerala

†644. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that several schemes for hydro power projects of Kerala pertaining year 1970 and from 1984 to 1992 have been lying pending with Central Government for approval;

(b) if so, the number there of and the number of such proposals fit for approval; and

(c) whether Central Government would make any such arrangements that the proposal fit for approval are cleared in a time span of one year in any circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Environment and Forest clearances are statutory under the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

EIA notification, 1994 & Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 repectively. A decision is taken within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

UNFPA report on destruction of forests

645. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the reports of United National Population Fund (UNFPA) regarding destruction of forests;

(b) whether it is a fact that India is a loser of 12.5 per cent of forests; and

(c) what remedial action has been taken or is proposed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Forest Survey of India assesses forest cover of the country biennially since 1987 using satellite data. So far six assessments have been published and Report of Seventh Assessment is ready for publication. As per the six assessments, forest cover of the country has decreased from 64.20 million hectares to 63.33 million hectares in the period 1981—1983 to 1993—1995, however, seventh assessment of the period 1995—97 shows marginal increase to 63.72 million hectares.

(c) Follwing remedial actions have been taken to check destruction of forests:

(i) Afforestation programmes are undertaken by State/UT Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India.

(ii) Externally aided projects are being implemented for development and preservation of forests.

(iii) Guidelines to all State/UT Governments to involve village communities in protection and regeneration of degraded forests.